

VARIATIONS OF REYNOLDSIA (ARALIACEAE) IN THE HAWAIIAN IS.
HAWAIIAN PLANT STUDIES 100

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In the genus Reynoldsia (Araliaceae) the shape of its leaflet apex, base, and tothing show slight fluctuations, but the same extremes can be seen on different leaflets of a single leaf. The differences stated by Sherff (1952) in length of inflorescence, rhachis, and pedicels overlap, and are also not diagnostic.

Sherff accepted 8 species and 5 varieties, all but one of which he published as new. For only three of them did he have flowers, fruit, and herbage. As in various others of his taxonomic monographs, his key is unworkable. After making a new key, then reviewing the apparent differences, the writer found no positive foliage differences, and the slight differences in length of rhachis and pedicels seem to be fluctuations, rather than characters of taxonomic significance. This investigation was made with all of the collections and the types in the Bishop Museum.

In conclusion, the writer finds himself forced to reject all of Sherff's new species and varieties of Reynoldsia, and to agree with the view of both Hillebrand and Rock, that there is but a single species of the genus here, R. sandwicensis Gray, occurring in the dry lowland of all the principal islands of the Hawaiian group.

Literature Cited

- Sherff, Earl Edward
1952. Further studies of Hawaiian Araliaceae;
Additions to Cheirodendron Hellei Sherff and
a preliminary treatment of the endemic species
of Reynoldsia A. Gray. Sherff's Bot. Leaflet
6: 6-19.